



BoRiT SUPERFUND SITE COMMUNITY UPDATE



AMBLER BOROUGH, UPPER DUBLIN & WHITPAIN TOWNSHIPS, PA

JULY 2012

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues its cleanup at the BoRiT Asbestos Superfund Site in Ambler, PA. The Site was used from the 1930s to the 1970s to dispose of asbestos-containing materials (ACM) from the Keasbey & Mattison Company, an asbestos products plant. EPA is cleaning up the site because studies show that asbestos fibers, if inhaled, can cause health concerns.

The site is divided into three distinct sections: a reservoir; a pile; and a closed park. This fact sheet is an update on cleanup accomplishments and next steps. EPA will continue to keep the community informed as work progresses.



Aerial view of BoRiT Asbestos Superfund Site

Photo courtesy of Salvatore A. Boccuti

WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?

- **EPA stabilized stream banks** along the Wissahickon and Rose Valley Creeks and Tannery Run, to keep ACM from entering these waters. Due to damage from Tropical Storm Lee, stabilization materials along Rose Valley Creek must be repaired.
- **EPA covered the Pile** with a geotextile (fabric) liner, with a minimum of two feet of clean fill, six inches of top soil, grass, and straw mats for erosion control. The cover, which exceeds federal air protection standards, stabilizes the Pile and protects human health and the environment.
- A **drainage swale** was built along the perimeter of the pile to manage future storm water runoff, and an **access ramp to the top of the Pile** was built for future maintenance.

Stream Bank Stabilization



View from Sons of Italy parking lot



View from old dam in Wissahickon Creek

Pile Cover



View of back portion of the Pile



View of reservoir side of the Pile

WHAT'S NEXT?

- **Reconstruct Rose Valley Creek** — Starting early this summer, EPA will start reconstruction of Rose Valley Creek's stream bank stabilization. The new design will be a combination of the cable concrete mats and riprap stone. The new design and materials will provide a stronger, more stable stream bank, and added vegetation will blend with the natural environment.
- **Cover Park Area** — Once Rose Valley Creek is done, the Park Area will be covered in the same manner as the Pile, with a geotextile (fabric) liner, a minimum of two feet of clean fill, six inches of top soil, grass, and straw mats for erosion control. The cover, which will exceed federal air protection standards, will stabilize the Park Area, and protect human health and the environment.

Damage from Tropical Storm Lee in September 2011



A massive volume of water and debris broke through a chain link fence at Maple Street during the storm, rushing into Rose Valley Creek, causing damage to the concrete mats shown above. Starting this summer, EPA will repair the damage.



EPA has already installed a swing gate at Maple Street so water can be released more gradually during heavy storms, and we installed a guard rail to prevent large debris from entering Rose Valley Creek.

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATIONS CONTINUE

- **Sampling** — Sampling data, including soil, air, groundwater, surface water and sediment was collected, in various phases, from 2009 to 2011. Those results are being quality checked and compiled to prepare for upcoming risk assessments. EPA will conduct one more round of groundwater sampling, to confirm results. Initial sampling results are available in two reports on our website under *Documents and Reports*. www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD981034887.htm
- **Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments** — EPA will be conducting human health and ecological risk assessments, once all the sampling data analysis is completed. These risk assessments evaluate the potential human and ecological risks, if exposed to asbestos. They are used as guides in determining the final cleanup methods. A report on the risk assessments and sampling is expected to be available in 2013.

For More Information

Field Office Location:

49 Oak Street, Ambler
(215) 654-5190

Contacts:

Community Involvement Coordinator
Ruth Wuenschel, (215) 814-5540
wuenschel.ruth@epa.gov

On-Scene Coordinator
Eduardo Rovira, (215) 814-3436
rovira.eduardo@epa.gov

Remedial Project Manager
Kristine Matzko, (215) 814-5719
matzko.kristine@epa.gov

Websites:

- www.epaossc.org/borit (EPA Removal Info.)
- www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD981034887.htm (EPA Remedial Info.)
- www.BoRitCAG.org (Community Advisory Group's website)

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

In order to cover the Park area, additional clean fill and top soil will be trucked through the neighborhood. Residents on Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Maple Street and Oak Street will experience this truck traffic from 8 am to 4 pm weekdays, starting in the fall. Residents on these streets are advised to use extra caution with children and pets during this time.

